DOT Electronic Bulletin Board/Internet Access

Information on the DOT Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU), is now accessible via Internet and through direct dial up. OSDBU offers information electronically as part of the Department of Transportation's connection to the Information Superhighway. DOT's connection is via the (Internet accessible) Gopher server and World Wide Web Server.

The DOT Gopher Server is a text based information storage device (basically a very large hard disk) that is accessible to the public by one of two methods. The first, for those who do not have Internet access, is simply done by dialing 1-800-665-6087. Any common public communications software such as Procomm will allow direct dial-up access to the DOT Gopher. For those with Internet access, the command

"gopher gopher.dot.gov"

will also provide a direct connection. Once inside the gopher, maneuvering around is menu driven, and very easy.

The DOT's World Wide Web server is the graphics based information storage medium which offers all of the features of the gopher, but also offers many advanced features such as graphics, video, sound and imaging. At this time, access to the Web is only available to those who have Internet access (and appropriate software) by employing the command:

"http://www.dot.gov"

As with the gopher, once inside, maneuvering around is menu driven and very user friendly. DOT also has an anonymous File Transfer Protocol (FTP) server which can be reached with the command:

"ftp:// ftp.dot.gov"

The user should login in as "anonymous" and use their Internet E-Mail address as the password. All files on the DOT gopher can be downloaded using the ftp application. You can access the most current information from the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) via the Internet. This site is located at the following address:

"http://osdbuweb.dot.gov"